



## ***WORCESTER COUNTY 2002 AGRICULTURAL PROFILE***

Worcester County is the easternmost county on Maryland's Eastern Shore and the only one bordering the Atlantic Ocean. The 2000 population was 46,543, which increases dramatically during the summer tourist season. The economy of the county is, to a large percent, dependent upon the agriculture industry. The county covers an area of 302,879 acres of which 37 percent or 111,835 acres is classified as farmland. By far the greatest contributor to agriculture is the poultry industry. Worcester county accounts for about 20 percent of the broiler and other meat type chickens sold in the state.

Worcester County is one of the youngest counties in the state, but it does have quite a few historical locations within its boundaries, one of which is the Nassawango Iron Furnace, located just west of Snow Hill.

The Pocomoke River, which has been officially identified as a "scenic river", winds its way through the county and is bordered by Bald Cypress Swamps, the northernmost cypress swamp along the Atlantic coast.

The county also can claim one of the most important summer resort areas on the east coast with Ocean City bordering the Atlantic Ocean. With the wide usage of the resort, population increases greatly during the summer months.

# ***WORCESTER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS***

<i>Crop</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Acreage Harvested</i>	<i>Average Yield</i>	<i>Total Production</i>
<b>Corn for Grain</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>Bu.</b>	34,100	165.5	5,644,000
	<b>2001</b>		36,600	147.4	5,395,000
	<b>2002</b>		39,500	73.4	2,900,000
<b>Corn for Silage</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>Tons.</b>	*	*	*
	<b>2001</b>		*	*	*
	<b>2002</b>		*	*	*
<b>Soybeans</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>Bu.</b>	47,000	45.2	2,123,000
	<b>2001</b>		39,900	42.0	1,676,000
	<b>2002</b>		35,000	30.9	1,080,000
<b>Wheat</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>Bu.</b>	11,100	68.4	759,700
	<b>2001</b>		10,000	62.0	620,000
	<b>2002</b>		9,300	65.2	606,000
<b>Hay</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>Tons.</b>	1,200	2.5	3,000
	<b>2001</b>		1,300	2.2	2,800
	<b>2002</b>		1,200	1.8	2,200
<b>Barley</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>Bu.</b>	*	*	*
	<b>2001</b>		*	*	*
	<b>2002</b>		*	*	*

<i>Crop Production</i>				<i>Livestock Inventories</i>	
<i>Rank among MD. Counties, 2002</i>				<i>Rank among MD. Counties, 1997 <sup>1</sup></i>	
Corn	2	Oats	3	Cattle	21
Wheat	7	Barley	3	Hogs	5
Hay	20	Soybeans	2	Sheep	21
				Milk Cows	3

# WORCESTER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

<i>Farm Number &amp; Size</i> <sup>1</sup>		1987	1992	1997
Number of Farms		631	474	415
Average Size	(acres)	196	227	269
Land in Farms	(acres)	123,406	107,519	111,835
<i>Livestock (Number on Farms)</i> <sup>1</sup>				
Cattle Inventory		2,642	2,059	1,762
Hog Inventory		28,172	30,133	6,094
Sheep Inventory		16	<sup>2</sup>	42
<i>Value of Sales</i> <sup>1</sup>			<i>(\$1,000)</i>	
All Products		122,048	131,302	147,553
Crops		15,902	18,920	24,492
Livestock, Poultry, and Poultry Products		106,147	112,382	123,060
<i>Equine, 2002</i>				
<i>Equine Inventory</i>	<i>Value of Equine Inventory</i>	<i>Number of Equine Places</i>		
	<i>1,000 dollars</i>			
960	5,995	180		
Cash Rents				
		2000	2001	2002
Cropland	<i>dollars per acre</i>	66.97	70.54	65.84

<sup>1</sup> Source: Census of Agriculture, NASS.

<sup>2</sup> Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

<sup>3</sup> Unranked - Data not published.

<sup>4</sup> Revised.

\* Acreage too small to publish.